

American

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Libya's New Leaders Making Quick Progress, Clinton Says

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 08 March 2012

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the work of Libya's interim government and its positive encouragement of better governance, the private sector and Libyan civil society in the four months it has been in power.

Speaking with Libyan Prime Minister Abdurrahim ElKeib at the State Department March 8, Clinton said Muammar Qadhafi's 42-year reign in which he ruled through "intimidation and division" had hollowed out Libya's institutions, but ElKeib and his government have shown "essential and effective leadership" and had begun the difficult task of putting Libya back together.

"We've seen progress in each of the three key areas of democratic society: building an accountable, effective government; promoting a strong private sector; and developing a vibrant civil society. And we will stand with the people of Libya as it continues this important work," Clinton said.

Libya's constitutional assembly elections, scheduled for June, and the establishment of a supreme elections commission offer "a critical first step that will pave the way for a new constitution grounded in democratic principles," she said.

The Obama administration has offered to help the Libyan government in its investigation of alleged human rights violations, and Clinton said the United States is encouraged by its commitment to promote human rights and the rule of law.

It is also supporting Libya's "booming new civil society," through the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Transition Initiatives, she said.

In addition, the secretary said, the United States and the United Nations "have removed almost all restrictions on doing business, and we are encouraging American companies to look for opportunities inside Libya."

ElKeib thanked the United States and other countries that supported Libya's opposition during Qadhafi's reign and said his country is "very proud of our young men and women who brought freedom to our country after 42

years of a brutal regime that nobody felt would disappear in eight months."

Showing courage and resilience, "our citizen army of teachers and mechanics, lawyers, students, professors, our sons and daughters suffered great losses along with the civilian population, but ... in the end, we succeeded in making the dream of a free Libya a reality, and we'll keep it that way," he said.

Libya, ElKeib said, needed a "facelift," and "the revolution has given it to her."

Now the Libyan people "are putting the same energy and determination that fueled the revolution into establishing a new Libya that has a positive contribution, maybe in a small way, at least, to the environment around it and to the world around it," he said.

Clinton's meeting with ElKeib came one day after the Libyan prime minister met with President Obama at the White House. According to a March 7 White House summary of their meeting, Obama encouraged ElKeib "to continue plans to hold national elections in June and stressed the importance of transparency and engagement with Libya's newly energized civil society as the government develops accountable institutions."

The White House reported that the two leaders also discussed a range of security issues, including increased cooperation on border management, weapons security, and regional counterterrorism concerns.

A senior Obama administration official who asked not to be identified told reporters on a conference call March 8 that life in Libya is not only returning to normal after many months of conflict, but that the country has already improved in many ways from the normalcy that existed under Qadhafi.

"Libyans are exercising their newfound freedoms in ways previously unimaginable. The sense of a people breathing freedom for the first time is palpable. They are holding peaceful protests. They are forming political parties," and "neighborhood cafes are bristling with passionate discussions about every topic under the sun," the official said.

Libya's economy has also improved, with some businesses reporting booming sales, and Libya has shocked U.S. analysts because its oil production levels are rapidly approaching their pre-revolution levels. Its oil

ministry has announced that it expects the production rate to reach the pre-conflict level of 1.7 million barrels per day by the coming summer, the official said.

The Libyan government continues to struggle with some difficult issues, but "given where they have come [from], I think they have achieved quite a lot in the last four months, and the United States intends to be a firm partner with them, just as we supported them during the revolution," the official said.

Secretary Clinton on International Women's Day

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

March 8, 2012

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

International Women's Day

Today, we honor women from all corners of the globe and the unique contributions they make. For over one hundred years, International Women's Day has been a beacon of hope for so many women on the frontlines of progress who have fought to lift up their communities, their societies and change our world.

We have made enormous progress in recent history. In the last year alone, women have marched, blogged, tweeted, and risked their lives all in the name of dignity, rights, and opportunity. Last October, the Nobel Committee took the historic step of awarding the Peace Prize to three extraordinary women for their contributions in advancing human rights.

But challenges still remain. Too many women have found their attempts to participate in government, in the economy, and in society blocked. Women still disproportionately suffer from poverty and violence. Their voices are muffled and their presence denied at the places where critical decisions are made. They face nationality laws that deny them equal rights to citizenship. And women and girls are all too frequently deprived of access to reproductive healthcare, education, and the credit needed to launch small businesses.

That is why the Obama Administration is accelerating efforts to advance and institutionalize women's participation in making and keeping peace, including the launch of a U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. And that's just the beginning, because

around the world, from Iraq and Afghanistan, to South Sudan, to the new transitional democracies in the Middle East and North Africa, our embassies are developing local strategies to expand political, economic, and social opportunities for women.

The United States is committed to making women and their advancement a cornerstone of our foreign policy not just because it's the right thing to do. Investing in women and girls is good for societies, and it is also good for the future prosperity of countries. Women drive our economies. They build peace and prosperity and political stability for everyone—men and women, boys and girls. So let us recommit ourselves to a future of equality. Together, we can ensure that all people everywhere have the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential.

U.S. Names Iranian General as Drug Trafficker, Sets Sanctions

08 March 2012

Washington — The United States has named an Iranian general as a narcotics trafficker, in the first use of the U.S. Kingpin Act against an Iranian official.

The action by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, announced March 7, names General Gholamreza Baghbani of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force (IRGC-QF) as a "specially designated narcotics trafficker" under the U.S. Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act.

"Today's action exposes IRGC-QF involvement in trafficking narcotics, made doubly reprehensible here because it is done as part of a broader scheme to support terrorism," said Treasury Department Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen.

"Treasury will continue exposing narcotics traffickers and terrorist supporters wherever they operate," Cohen said.

As the current chief of the IRGC-QF office in Zahedan, in southeastern Iran near the Afghan border, General Baghbani allowed Afghan narcotics traffickers to smuggle opiates through Iran in return for assistance, the Treasury Department said. For example, Afghan narcotics traffickers moved weapons to the Taliban on his behalf. In return, he helped facilitate the smuggling of heroin precursor chemicals through the Iranian border. He also helped facilitate shipments of opium into Iran.

As a result of the Treasury Department designation, U.S. persons are prohibited from conducting financial or commercial transactions with General Baghbani, and any assets he may have under U.S. jurisdiction are frozen.

In announcing Baghbani's designation, the Treasury Department noted that it continues to target the financial networks of significant foreign narcotics traffickers and their organizations worldwide using the authorities in the Kingpin Act. It has designated more than 1,000 individuals and entities linked to drug kingpins since June 2000.

Punishments for violations of the Kingpin Act range from civil penalties of up to \$1.075 million per violation to more severe criminal penalties. Criminal penalties for corporate officers may include up to 30 years in prison and fines of up to \$5 million. Criminal fines for corporations may reach \$10 million.

Other individuals face up to 10 years in prison and fines under Title 18 of the U.S. Code for criminal violations of the Kingpin Act.

A [chart of General Baghbani's activities](#) is available on the Treasury Department website.

Obama Implements U.S.-Korea Trade Pact

By Lauren Monsen | Staff Writer | 07 March 2012

Washington — On March 6, President Obama signed a proclamation to implement the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, paving the way for increased trade between the United States and South Korea.

Obama's proclamation follows congressional approval of the free-trade accord on October 13, 2011. The accord with South Korea, a major security and economic partner, covers a number of Korean goods, including certain motor vehicles as well as fabric, yarn and fiber.

Economic experts say free-trade agreements are designed to reduce the cost of U.S. goods and services exported to foreign markets, while also reducing the cost of foreign goods and services imported into the United States.

The agreement will help South Korea gain greater access to U.S. markets, and American products will be more affordable for Korean households and businesses, according to Obama. Speaking in October 2011, he described the trade pact as "a win for the strong alliance between the United States and South Korea."

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, addressing Korean news agencies in December 2011, said: "The accord is significant because it lays the groundwork for a 'win-win' relationship by reflecting the national interests of Korea and the United States in a balanced manner."

Clinton Praises 40 Years of U.S.-China Progress

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer | 07 March 2012

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the progress the United States and China have made in building strong and durable relations since former President Richard Nixon's critical meetings with Chinese leaders 40 years ago in Beijing.

"We've gone from being two nations with hardly any ties to speak of, little bearing on each other, to being thoroughly, inescapably interdependent," Clinton said at a March 7 Washington conference marking the historic event.

The relationship in 1972 was embedded deeply in the context of the Cold War and focused on establishing official ties and laying the groundwork for peaceful engagement and building a basic understanding of each other. But the U.S.-China relationship of 2012 is something altogether different, she said.

The United States is attempting to work with China as a rising power to foster its contributions to global security, stability and economic prosperity while also sustaining U.S. leadership in a rapidly changing world, Clinton said. And the United States is trying to do this without getting into what she termed an "unhealthy competition, rivalry or conflict."

"We are together building a model in which we strike a stable and mutually acceptable balance between cooperation and competition," Clinton said. "This is uncharted territory, and we have to get it right, because so much depends on it."

Clinton also acknowledged that after three years during the Obama administration of intensive engagement and many successes and frustrations that have come with that engagement, both U.S. and Chinese leaders have become quite clear about the obstacles that still remain.

"There are — understandably so — difficult questions we must answer and misconceptions we must address," she said.

There are some who express concern that a rising and prosperous China may wield greater international power and the U.S.-China relationship could turn adversarial, or the United States will experience decline as a result, she said. Some in China, she said, fear that the United States is determined to contain China's rise and limit its progress.

"There still remains suspicion and mistrust of the other's intentions, particularly in the military realm," Clinton said. "We must address this head-on and constructively by creating a framework for building trust over time."

Clinton said there is no contradiction between supporting a rising China and advancing America's interests. The United States has supported China's entry into the World Trade Organization, supported its elevation within the Group of 20 advanced and emerging global economies and made cooperation with China at the Copenhagen and subsequent climate summits a priority, she said.

"On issue after issue, we have not only welcomed, we have advocated for China's participation, and we have called for its leadership," Clinton said. "And China, a rising geopolitical power, has a seat at virtually every table and a role in virtually every institution of importance in the world."

Clinton said China's power, wealth and influence have pushed it rapidly to a new level in the international order, and also brought the inevitable demand that comes with it — greater responsibility.

"China has already shown increased leadership on some regional and global issues like countering piracy and sustaining the global economic recovery. It has also contributed substantially to U.N. peacekeeping missions worldwide, and we applaud these steps," Clinton said.

"But we do believe China will have to go further to fully embrace its new role in the world, to give the world confidence that it is going to, not just today or on one set of issues, but for the long run, play a positive role that will enhance security, stability and prosperity," she said.

Obama Says Iran Can Show It Is Serious in Upcoming Nuclear Talks

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 06 March 2012

Washington — President Obama says it is in every country's interest that widespread concerns that Iran is developing nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian program are resolved diplomatically. "We have a window

of opportunity where this can still be resolved diplomatically," he said.

Speaking at a press conference at the White House March 6, Obama said Iran's leaders know that to resolve the issue they will need to return to talks and "discuss in a clear and forthright way ... how to prove to the international community that the intentions of their nuclear program are peaceful."

"There are steps that they can take that would send a signal to the international community and that are verifiable, that would allow them to be in compliance with international norms, in compliance with international mandates, abiding by the Nonproliferation Treaty, and provide the world an assurance that they're not pursuing a nuclear weapon," he said.

Earlier March 6, the European Union's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, announced that she had offered to resume discussions with the Iranians. Ashton represents Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States — collectively known as the P5+1 — as their point of contact concerning Iran's nuclear activities.

"I don't expect a breakthrough in a first meeting. But I think we will have a pretty good sense fairly quickly as to how serious they are about resolving the issue," Obama said.

In previous discussions with the P5+1, the Iranian government "has been hemming and hawing and stalling and avoiding the issues in ways that the international community has concluded were not serious," he said.

But over the past three years, the United States has been able to mobilize "unprecedented, crippling sanctions" on the country and now "Iran is feeling the bite of these sanctions in a substantial way. The world is unified. Iran is politically isolated," the president said.

The sanctions will only grow tougher in the coming months as they start to affect Iran's oil industry and its central bank, and Iran's leaders "understand that the world community means business," he said.

The United States will continue to apply pressure on Iran, while at the same time providing "a door for the Iranian regime to walk through where they could rejoin the community of nations," he said.

Asked about the chances of U.S. military action in Syria as a response to Bashar al-Assad's brutal repression of protesters, Obama said U.S. policymakers need to "think through what we do through the lens of what's going to be effective, but also what's critical for U.S. security interests."

The situation in Syria is "much more complicated" than when the United States joined NATO and Arab states in enforcing a no-fly zone and arms embargo in Libya in response to Muammar al-Qadhafi's attacks on Libyan civilians, he said.

"What happened in Libya was we mobilized the international community, had a U.N. Security Council mandate, had the full cooperation of the region, Arab states, and we knew that we could execute very effectively in a relatively short period of time," he said.

The United States has joined the international community's mobilization against the Assad regime through political and economic isolation, and is discussing ways to support the Syrian opposition and provide humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, he said.

"We are going to continue to work on this project with other countries. And it is my belief that ultimately this dictator will fall, as dictators in the past have fallen," he said.

The president also said that when NATO leaders gather in Chicago in May, they will be discussing benchmarks and steps for the full transition of Afghanistan's security responsibilities to the Afghans themselves over the next two years, with the transition to be completed by 2014.

Like the security transition in Iraq, there are ways to make sure that the reduced role of U.S. and other foreign forces in Afghanistan is gradual, that Afghan security capacity is built up, and "we are putting in place the kinds of support structures that are needed in order for the overall strategy to be effective," he said.

"We're going to be able to find a mechanism whereby Afghans understand their sovereignty is being respected and that they're going to be taking a greater and greater role in their own security," he said. The United States is "not interested in staying there any longer than is necessary to assure that al-Qaida is not operating there and that there's sufficient stability that it doesn't end up being a free-for-all" after international forces have left.

Obama Seeks \$7.9 Billion for Global Health in 2013

By Kathryn McConnell | Staff Writer | 06 March 2012

Washington — The Obama administration is asking Congress for \$7.9 billion to fund global health programs in fiscal year 2013. It also is requesting \$1 billion to help farmers in 20 countries targeted by the Feed the Future initiative to grow more food.

"By fighting hunger and disease, we fight the despair that can fuel violent extremism and conflict," said Rajiv Shah, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The proposed budget would help countries "feed, treat and educate their people while strengthening the capacity to own those responsibilities," he said.

The administration's total request for the State Department and foreign assistance is \$51.6 billion, of which USAID administers a large portion.

Testifying March 6 before the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, Shah said the spending request for the fiscal year starting October 1 includes \$770 million to support political, economic and trade reforms in the Middle East and North Africa.

"By supporting governments that demonstrate a commitment to undergo meaningful change and empower their people, [the United States] will continue to play a major role in helping the people of this region determine their own fate," Shah said.

The proposed budget would continue programs to help Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq move toward long-term stability, economic growth and democratic reforms.

The budget request is slightly less than the amount requested for fiscal year 2012 as the result of greater efficiencies, falling costs and increased investments by partner governments, Shah said. It cuts support for Europe and Central Asia by \$113 million because of shifting global priorities and progress by some countries toward market-based economies, he added.

If approved by the committee, the budget request will go to the full House for consideration. The House and Senate must negotiate agreement on a final bill before it can be sent to the president for signature or veto.

The administration's spending request would continue funding the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which would save 6 million lives by

expanding access to treatment. It includes \$619 million to fight malaria by spending more on bed nets and anti-malarial treatment. Those actions would cut child deaths due to the disease by as much as 30 percent, according to Shah. The request also would continue funding for programs in maternal and child health, voluntary family planning, nutrition, tuberculosis and tropical diseases.

Feed the Future spending would focus on lifting smallholder farmers, most of them women, out of poverty in the initiative's 20 targeted countries, Shah said. The 20 countries were selected based on their need for aid, their potential for agricultural growth and partnership opportunities. Since 2008, USAID's agricultural programs in those countries have increased their agricultural production by an average of 5.8 percent annually, he noted.

The proposal would fund more scientific research and innovative technologies and help companies bring more poor farmers into their supply chain.

Shah pointed out two areas of research spending. In agriculture, USAID is working with scientists at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute to develop drought-resistant varieties of sorghum, millet and beans and a vitamin A-enhanced sweet potato. In health, researchers working through PEPFAR have isolated 17 antibodies that may hold the key to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Under the proposed budget, USAID would invest in clean energy and in protecting rain forests that sequester carbon and stop the threat of drought and deserts. In education, it would help improve the reading skills of 100 million children.

U.S. Makes First Contribution to Emergency Migration Fund

06 March 2012

Washington — The United States has contributed \$2.5 million to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) new Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM).

Recent major emergencies such as the evacuations from Libya, Côte d'Ivoire and Yemen — where IOM played an essential life-saving role — have highlighted the importance of rapid response and intervention, according to a press release from the U.S. mission in Geneva. The

contribution by the United States is the first for the new emergency fund.

"These funds will help IOM to save lives and mitigate suffering by allowing it to respond rapidly in the critical, early stages of an emergency," said Ambassador Betty E. King, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva. "The United States supported the creation of the MEFM and is convinced that this new mechanism is an important contribution to the system of humanitarian response. Migration crises can develop literally overnight, and in the past IOM had no option but to await financial commitments by donors. We all witnessed the essential role IOM played in Libya last year, when it helped evacuate over 230,000 people, by land and air from Sebha and by boat from Misrata."

The new emergency fund was established to bridge the gap between when an emergency occurs and when donor funding is received. The aim is to enable earlier assessment of situations and cut the time needed to provide the initial assistance.

"As the first contribution to this new migrant emergency funding facility, the U.S. voluntary contribution is particularly timely," said IOM Director General William Swing. "We hope that this initiative will serve as an encouragement to us all to bring the facility to full capacity."

Obama Administration Releases 2012 Trade Agenda

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer | 05 March 2012

Washington — President Obama's administration has released its plan to enhance U.S. participation in global trade during 2012 in a document that highlights the importance of enforcing a rules-based international trading system and sharing the benefits of trade more broadly around the world.

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk prepared and released the 2012 Trade Policy Agenda and 2011 Annual Report, documents that by law must be delivered to Congress by March 1 of each year.

"Building on last year's significant trade achievements, the Obama administration is moving full speed ahead in 2012 with ambitious initiatives to secure job-supporting trade opportunities and a level playing field" for firms of every size selling products and services around the world, Kirk said upon the report's March 1 release.

The agenda outlines the administration's key trade goals for the year, which include efforts to stay on track to meet Obama's goal of doubling U.S. exports by the end of 2014.

"Increasing exports is an important element of President Obama's blueprint for an America built to last, where everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share and plays by the same set of rules," Kirk said.

The document includes plans for implementing recent trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, as well as for concluding negotiations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) regional trade agreement.

Representatives from the TPP nations are meeting for the 11th round of negotiations on the deal in Melbourne, Australia, March 1-9. The partnership agreement is meant to enhance trade, investment and economic growth in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region.

Obama's trade agenda also calls for enhanced enforcement efforts to investigate unfair trading practices around the world, and to hold all trading partners accountable for their commitments to comply with World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations. It also includes a plan to maintain American leadership at the WTO and in other forums to foster greater international trade liberalization.

The agenda's opening says the document "offers a survey of how the administration will continue to support American jobs through exports and two-way trade, through enforcement of U.S. rights in a strong, rules-based trading system and through bolstered international trade relationships." It adds that the policy includes building partnerships with developing countries to fight poverty and expand opportunity, as well as efforts to uphold the American values of transparency, openness and efficiency in building increased trade ties around the world.

Obama Will Prevent Iran from Getting Nuclear Weapon

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 05 March 2012

Washington — President Obama says he is dedicated to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, arguing that if Iran becomes a nuclear-armed power it would spark an arms race in the Middle East and Iran could supply a nuclear device to a terrorist group.

Speaking in Washington March 5, Obama said the United States prefers to resolve the issue of Iran's nuclear activities through diplomatic means and that it has worked with other countries to set up "the most crippling sanctions ever" against Iran.

"We do believe that there is still a window that allows for a diplomatic resolution to this issue, but ultimately the Iranians' regime has to make a decision to move in that direction, a decision that they have not made thus far," he said.

Obama said it is "profoundly" in the interests of the United States to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and "my policy here is not going to be one of containment. My policy is prevention of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons," he said.

"We do not want to see a nuclear arms race in one of the most volatile regions in the world. We do not want the possibility of a nuclear weapon falling into the hands of terrorists. And we do not want a regime that has been a state sponsor of terrorism being able to feel that it can act even more aggressively or with impunity as a consequence of its nuclear power," Obama said.

The president spoke with The Atlantic Magazine's Jeffrey Goldberg March 2 and said Iran's leaders need to decide what exactly is in their country's genuine interests.

"What we've seen, what we've heard directly from them over the last couple of weeks is that nuclear weapons are sinful and un-Islamic," he said.

But Iran's leaders must "prove to the international community that their intentions are peaceful and that they are, in fact, not pursuing weapons," he said.

"It doesn't require them to knuckle under to us. What it does require is for them to actually show to the world that there is consistency between their actions and their statements. And that's something they should be able to do without losing face," the president said.

Obama noted that history has shown that the only way a country has forsaken nuclear weapons without the need for foreign military intervention has been when the country itself has made that choice, as with Libya and South Africa.

"We think that, without in any way being under an illusion about Iranian intentions, without in any way being naive about the nature of that regime, they are self-

interested. They recognize that they are in a bad, bad place right now. It is possible for them to make a strategic calculation that, at minimum, pushes much further to the right whatever potential breakout capacity they may have," he said.

But if Iran does choose to have a nuclear weapon, they will likely be followed by four or five other countries in the region, and "at that point, the prospect for miscalculation in a region that has that many tensions and fissures is profound. You essentially then duplicate the challenges of India and Pakistan fivefold or tenfold," he said.

Iran's development of a nuclear weapon is not only something the United States would like to solve, "this is something we have to solve," he said, telling Goldberg, "I don't bluff."

"Anybody who is sitting in my chair who isn't mindful of the costs of war shouldn't be here, because it's serious business. These aren't video games that we're playing here," he said.

U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Taliban Explosives Maker

02 March 2012

Washington — All assets of a Taliban explosives manufacturer that are in the United States or controlled by Americans have been frozen and U.S. entities are prohibited from engaging in transactions with him, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced March 2.

This is the first sanctions action specifically targeting the Taliban's improvised explosive devices (IED) manufacturer and support network, the Treasury said.

The department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated IED facilitator Abdul Samad Achekzai (Samad) for acting for or on behalf of the Taliban based on a 2002 executive order (E.O. 13224) that included the Taliban on the United States' list of specially designated global terrorists.

Since that designation, the Treasury Department has worked to identify and cut off members of the Taliban from the global financial system.

"As a key official in the Taliban's IED supply network, Abdul Samad Achekzai is responsible for untold death and suffering," said Adam Szubin, director of OFAC. "IEDs are the leading cause of casualties among coalition

troops and civilians in Afghanistan, and we must do everything in our power to expose and disrupt the purveyors of these deadly devices."

As recently as mid-2010, Samad was assigned responsibility for procuring and storing IED components, constructing detonators and providing IED training in support of Taliban fighters in western and southern Afghanistan, the Treasury statement said.

Samad also has participated in attacks. As of early 2011, Samad was working with a Taliban member to assassinate an Afghan Border Police commander and had recruited a suicide bomber for the operation. Samad also sent five Taliban suicide bombers to Kandahar to target Afghan authorities in early 2010.

In early 2011, Samad deployed five suicide bombers to Afghanistan to conduct attacks on coalition forces and Afghan authorities.

Treasury said it will continue to work with interagency partners to isolate the Taliban and global terrorist organizations from the international financial system and ensure that their access to funds to carry out terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere is severely hampered.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)